

In addition, the bill contains a third amendment which I authored, the "early warning" provision. For the first time, companies dealing with NHTSA will be on notice that they must report information bearing on public safety much earlier than they have in the past. In particular, manufacturers will have to report incidents involving fatalities or serious injuries alleged, or proven, to have been caused by a possible defect. This provision applies both within the United States and in foreign countries where the product sold in that country is also sold in the United States.

Everything we have heard in the last four weeks indicates we desperately need this type of provision. I have worked hard with the Republican majority to arrive at a workable and effective provision and the legislation we bring to the Floor now incorporates this important safety improvement.

Finally, I believe we need to look at other provisions and other issues more closely as we proceed on this bill as well as other NHTSA-related bills in the future. For instance, I believe Congress must ensure that NHTSA has sufficient financial and personnel resources to fully gauge important safety issues as they materialize. In the case of the Firestone/Ford fiasco the agency maintains it did not have sufficient information to trigger an investigation sooner. Additional staffing and funding for NHTSA earlier may have helped NHTSA notice a problem sooner and thus have saved lives.

After all, protecting the public and making sure that the agency charged with automotive safety issues has the resources to do its job is really where the "rubber meets the road" on this policy issue and I hope that we can rectify any deficiencies in such funding before Congress adjourns this year.

I again want to commend Chairman BLILEY, Chairman TAUZIN, Chairman UPTON, Ranking Member JOHN DINGELL, Representatives LUTHER, GREEN, and other colleagues who have worked very hard on this bill and yield back the balance of my time.

LIGHTS ON AFTERSCHOOL— PROJECT OF AFTERSCHOOL AL- LIANCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, many times we hear, "Our children get into trouble because their time is not occupied with worthwhile pursuits." Today, I want to recognize a project that has shown great success in dealing with that very problem.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform to my colleagues about a project that helps bridge the gap between childhood and the adult world. "Lights on Afterschool" is a project of the Afterschool Alliance. It is a nationwide event, taking place today, October 12, 2000, to recognize the critical importance of quality after school programs in the lives of children, their families, and their communities. The project is sponsored by J.C. Penney Inc. and the National Community Education Associa-

tion. Lights on Afterschool will spotlight innovative and effective after school programs. Parents, community and business leaders, elected officials, and the media will have an opportunity to see firsthand how after school programs help our children discover the heroes within themselves!

Mr. Speaker, the Afterschool Alliance was launched September 1999 by U.S. Secretary of Education, Richard Riley. It is a coalition of public, private, and nonprofit organizations dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of after school programs. The goals of the project are to increase funding for after school programs and to ensure top quality resources for all participants in after school programs. The alliance was created to facilitate public awareness and advocacy work. Its primary purpose is to offer positive choices to the children of our nation.

After school programs provide safe, structured, and supervised activities, utilizing the physical resources provided by our schools, without taxing or overburdening the existing educational system. Statistics indicate that 15 million children are left unsupervised during non-school hours, and juvenile crime is three times higher in the period after the school day ends. The time spent in these after school programs means less time spent unsupervised, and more time spent challenging and developing a child's mind. Students who participate in after school programs are only half as likely to use drugs, and a third as likely to become teen parents. The after school programs teach respect for others, and integrate valuable social skills into lessons. After school programs now exist in thirty percent of K-8 schools. This is a tremendous beginning, yet it leaves over two-thirds of potential sites not used during this critical period of time. The Afterschool Alliance wants to ensure all children will have access to these programs by the year 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending the efforts of the Afterschool Alliance and wish them success on their project, Lights on Afterschool.

IN SUPPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PRESCRIPTION DRUG RE- IMPORTATION PROPOSAL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, prescription medicines have become a vital part of our health care system, and it is our responsibility to pass a meaningful prescription drug benefits through Medicare so that seniors will have access to the treatments that their doctors prescribe. Unfortunately, the drug reimportation language that the Republican leadership included in this bill falls far short of this important goal.

Prices for the 50 most prescribed drugs for senior citizens have been going up, on average, at twice the rate of inflation over the past six years. As the price of prescription medicines has soared, our nation's elderly and disabled populations have found it harder and harder to afford the treatments that their doctors prescribe.

Although it cannot replace a real prescription drug benefit through Medicare, drug reimportation holds great promise for reducing prescription drug costs. However, the Republican reimportation provision is filled with loopholes that will prevent seniors from seeing any real savings.

The Republican proposal contains several provisions that unnecessarily restrict the supply of reimported prescription drugs and increase their cost. First, they limit the medicines eligible for reimportation and the number of countries from which they can be imported. Second, drug companies have the option of refusing to allow reimporters to use FDA-approved labeling for their products. This allows these companies to increase the price of reimported drugs by charging outrageously high prices for the use of the label. Third, this language does nothing to prevent pharmaceutical companies from discriminating against US consumers by forcing restrictive contract terms on foreign distributors.

Finally, the Republican proposal is not permanent. By allowing this legislation to sunset after five years, the Republicans are giving pharmaceutical companies yet another opportunity to kill prescription drug legislation that they do not like.

The Democratic proposal provides seniors with access to lower price drugs, subject to strict safety testing, without any of these harmful loopholes. Seniors deserve real prescription drug savings, not another empty promise from Republicans.

TRIBUTE TO JACK KILBY

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Jack Kilby for winning the Nobel Prize for physics this Tuesday.

Jack Kilby, at age 76, is a modest man who has not found himself wrapped up in today's technological world. This modest man, who began his journey in physics 42 years ago, probably had no reason to believe he would be in this position today. Under Mr. Kilby's belt, he has 60 patents. He is also the co-inventor of the pocket calculator.

His discovery—the integrated circuit—in September of 1958 at the headquarters of Texas Instruments Inc. in Dallas, Texas has been placed into cell phones, digital music players, computer hard drives, and other various electronic devices, thus decreasing the cost of electronics.

Mr. Kilby still resides in Dallas, Texas, a technology powerhouse that will forever be linked to his success. This one man and his chip are the spark that made Texas Instruments the giant company it is today. So, I thank him and congratulate him for his achievements.